

wish him and his family well with their future success and their commitment to the community.

20 YEARS OF AFFORDABLE
HOUSING

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the San Diego Housing Commission on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. During these two decades, the Housing Commission has helped to provide approximately a half million San Diegans with quality housing opportunities. In the process, neighborhoods have been revitalized and the economy vastly improved.

The Housing Commission has invested billions of dollars in San Diego, resulting in the development of 10,000 apartment units—including nearly 5,500 designed for lower income San Diegans—and in the stabilization of rents for thousands of San Diegans through rental assistance.

The Housing Commission has been a leader in our nation. Its approach to developing and managing its 1,860 public housing units has earned it acclaim and national awards. The awards recognize the Commission for the design and maintenance of its properties and for the Commission's philosophy of distributing public housing throughout the city.

The residents in San Diego public housing benefit from the Housing Commission's programs that have set national standards in helping residents achieve self-sufficiency. The six learning opportunity centers at the Commission's sites provide a way for residents to escape dependence on welfare.

The residents are active partners with the Commission in improving their lives—the Small Business Administration and San Diego Chamber of Commerce Welfare-to-Work Entrepreneur of the Year in 1998 was won by a Housing Commission resident, Yohannes Miles, who became a painting contractor. Needless to say, Mr. Miles is now a former client of the Commission—he has moved into his own home!

The Housing Commission has improved our whole City. It has helped more than 8,000 families rehabilitate their homes and has paved the way for 3,100 low- to moderate-income people to purchase their first home.

The Housing Commission employees are dedicated—15 have been with the agency since its founding. In its 20 years, Commission employees have helped the agency win countless national awards and honors, including high performance ratings each year from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the first Award of Excellence for Enduring Design from the National Association of Redevelopment Officials, and an award for consensus building in developing public housing.

I want to wish the employees and the officials of the San Diego Housing Commission, and the forward thinking city leaders who started the agency, a happy anniversary. May you provide many others with the basic opportunity and right of housing in San Diego in the years to come.

CALVARY CHILDREN'S CENTER

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor today to recognize an exceptional organization that has made a significant difference in the lives of hundreds of Georgia's children. That organization is Calvary Children's home.

The Calvary Children's Home was founded in 1966 by Reverend Ben F. Turner, and has been located in Cobb County, Georgia, for 33 years. Rev. Turner's first vision of Calvary took place on the streets of Jerusalem, when a poor woman offered to sell her baby to his tour group for money to support her other children. Then, in 1965 a local father and mother of six were returning from shopping when both were killed in an automobile accident. However, as much as the children were disturbed by the loss of their parents, they were equally upset with the prospect of being separated from each other in the foster care system, especially after such a great loss.

In September 1997, Rev. Turner's ultimate dream was finally realized, as the Calvary Children's Home moved from its original dormitory-style complex into three beautiful homes located on 13 acres of land near Powder Springs, Georgia. In January a new administrative center featuring a dining hall, library, and counseling center was completed on the property under the direction of Administrator Snyder Turner. The home has always been funded entirely by generous private funding from churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals dedicated to giving children in need a second chance.

The Calvary Children's Home presently houses 26 children, and has housed more than 400 children since first opening its doors 33 years ago. The center is a nonprofit, charitable organization providing long-term residential care for children who are victims of broken homes, abuse, neglect, or abandonment. The majority of its residents are brothers and sisters who otherwise would have been separated from each other and placed into separate homes through the foster care system.

The Calvary Children's Home is an excellent example of private individuals reaching out and making a difference in the lives of our youth, without public mandates or tax dollars. It speaks well of Georgia's Seventh District that such an organization can survive. I wish Administrator Turner, the staff, residents, and donors well in continuing their commitments to love, spiritual values, and improving the lives of our young people.

IN HONOR OF YOLANDA'S ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DANCE ON ITS 25TH ANNUAL RECITAL AND ITS FOUNDER, MS. YOLANDA FERNANDEZ-QUINCOCES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yolanda's Academy of Music and

Dance on the celebration of its 25th Annual Recital and its founder, Ms. Yolanda Fernandez-Quincoces, for her many accomplishments. She has made every effort to provide a forum in which the young people of Hudson County, and particularly of Union City, NJ, are able to express their interest in the arts.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Ms. Fernandez demonstrated tremendous artistic ability at a very young age. After moving to the United States with her family, Ms. Fernandez begun taking lessons in ballet and piano at the age of five. She continued her training at the New Jersey Ballet, Oneida's Dance Studio, and the American Ballet Theater, where she also excelled in Flamenco dance and piano while attending classes with renowned leaders in the fields of study.

Ms. Fernandez, since receiving her bachelor's degree in Music Education from New York University, has served as a music and dance educator at the Woodrow Wilson School for the Integrated Arts in my hometown of Union City, NJ, where she is known for her remarkable commitment to her student's education.

Ms. Fernandez has demonstrated her dedication to the arts and education through her involvement in such associations as the Dance Educators of America, the Dance Masters of America, the National Guild of Piano Teachers, and the National Education Association. Her participation in the advancement of the arts includes making personal appearances at the New Jersey Opera and on various television broadcasts. In addition, she produced and hosted her own television program called "Art Beat."

Ms. Fernandez's artistic contributions to the community and her unwavering commitment to promoting the arts in our schools have not gone unnoticed. In 1996, she was named "Teacher of the Year" by Union City, Hudson County, and the Governor of the State of New Jersey. In 1996 and 1997, she received the prestigious "Outstanding Choreographer" Award from the Dance Educators of America in New York City.

In recognition of Ms. Fernandez's impassioned devotion to promoting the arts in our schools and communities, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating her, as well as Yolanda's Academy of Music and Dance, on this occasion, the 25th Annual Recital, and wishing Ms. Fernandez continued success in her endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT ALBERT M. ROMANO,
JR.

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Senior Master Sergeant Albert M. Romano, Jr., one of 12 U.S. Air Force Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

"Buddy" Romano hails from Oxnard, California, in my district, where he starred in varsity football and baseball at Santa Clara High School and was ranked 32nd in California for motocross racing.

He married his high school sweetheart, the former Jennifer Suytar, also of Oxnard. The